

“**Break, Break, Break**” is a lyric poem by **Alfred, Lord Tennyson** in which the poet expresses deep sorrow after the death of someone very dear to him. The poem is set by the sea, whose continuous breaking waves remind the poet that life goes on even when personal loss remains.

General Meaning

The poem shows that while nature and human life continue normally, the poet remains trapped in grief and memory.

Detailed Meaning

In the first stanza, the poet speaks directly to the sea and wishes he could express his sorrow as freely as the waves break against the rocks. In the second stanza, he contrasts his sadness with scenes of happiness, such as children playing and a sailor singing joyfully. In the third stanza, calm ships moving toward the harbor symbolize life’s steady journey. In the final stanza, the poet repeats “Break, break, break” to emphasize his unending grief and the painful memory of the lost voice of his friend.

Main Theme

1- Grief and loss

Literary Devices & Figures of Speech

- **Repetition:** “Break, break, break” shows continuous pain
- **Contrast:** Joyful life vs. poet’s sadness
- **Metaphor:** “cold gray stones” → suggests the poet’s cold sadness and emotional pain.

• **Personification:**

- 1- The sea is addressed directly.
- 2- “a day that is dead” = the day is treated as a person.